

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13-15, 17, 18, and 20, of which claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 15, and 20 are independent. Claims 2, 6, 9, 12, 16 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

Initially, claims 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on grounds that the claimed invention was directed to allegedly non-statutory subject matter. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has simply cancelled claims 9 and 19, thus rendering the rejection moot. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully sought.

Each of claims 1-20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stone et al. (EP 0729118) in view of Kremers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,007,625). In view of the above amendments and the reasons which follow, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus provided with a printer driver and comprising finishing command setting means which can set a finishing command to a printer so as to rotation-sort-output or offset-output document data, layout setting means for setting a print layout of the document data, counting means for counting the number of physical sheets to which the document data of one copy whose output is desired is allocated, print instructing means for instructing execution of printing and spooling means for spooling the document data as intermediate data of a data format different from that of the document data. The invention is characterized in that the finishing command setting means sets the finishing command and the layout setting means sets the print layout on a print setting screen

of the printer driver, wherein the finishing command setting means can set an automatic mode in which the finishing command is left to the decision of the printer driver and wherein the layout setting means sets the number of logical pages to be allocated to one physical sheet and a layout order of the logical pages on the physical sheet. When the automatic mode is set, the finishing command setting means disables the finishing command if the counting via the counting means shows that the document data of one copy is printed onto one physical sheet such that the rotation sort output or the offset output is not performed, and enables the finishing command if the counting by the counting means shows that the document data of one copy is printed onto two or more physical sheets, such that the rotation sort output or the offset output is performed.

Stone et al. provides for performing page placement, offset setting in any combination on the front and back side of a sheet of end-up printing. Kremers et al. shows a selectable sheet offset apparatus in which successive stacks of uncollated copy sheets may be offset from one another, and successive stacks of collated copy sheets are inhibited from being offset from one another in the finishing station. Kremers et al. also shows a no-offset key 126 that is actuated by the operator to inhibit offset.

However, neither Stone et al. nor Kremers et al. teach or suggest executing, on a print setting screen (i.e., user interface) of the printer driver, finishing command setting for rotation-sort output or offset output, and layout setting for the number of logical pages on one physical sheet and for a layout order of the logical pages on the physical sheet. Moreover, Stone et al. and Kremers et al. also fail to teach or suggest disabling the finishing command if the document data of one copy is printed onto one physical sheet such that the rotation sort output or the offset output is not performed, and enabling the finishing command if the document data of

one copy is printed onto two or more physical sheets such that the rotation sort output or the offset output is performed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied combination of references do not teach or suggest the invention as set forth in claim 1.

Independent claim 5 is directed to a print data generating method and claim 10 is directed to a computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a program. Each incorporates the salient features of claim 1 and is therefore respectfully submitted to be distinguishable over the art for reasons noted above with respect to claim 1.

Independent claim 11 is directed to an information processing apparatus provided with a printer driver and comprising finishing command setting means which can set a finishing command to a printer so as to rotation-sort-output or offset-output document data, layout setting means for setting a print layout of the document data, a user interface, provided by the printer driver, on which a user activates the finishing command setting means to set the finishing command and the layout setting means to set the print layout, and counting means for counting the number of physical sheets to which the document data of one copy whose output is desired is allocated. The invention is characterized in that the finishing command setting means can set the finishing command in an enabled state or in a disabled state, wherein the layout setting means sets the number of logical pages to be allocated to one physical sheet and a layout order of the logical page is on the physical sheet and wherein when the finishing command is set in the enabled state and the counting shows that the document data of one copy is printed onto one physical sheet, the finishing command is changed from the enabled state to the disabled state.

However, neither Stone et al. nor Kremers et al. teach or suggest executing, on a print setting screen of the printer driver, finishing command settings for rotation-sort output or offset output, and layout setting for the number of logical pages on one physical sheet and for a layout order of the logical pages on the physical sheet. Moreover, neither of the references teach or suggest that when the finishing command is set in the enabled state and the document data of one copy is printed onto one physical sheet, the finishing command is changed from the enabled state to the disabled stated.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 11 as amended is neither taught nor suggested by the applied art.

Independent claims 16 and 20 are directed to print data generating method and a computer-readable recording means, respectively, and each incorporates the salient features discussed above with respect to claim 11. Accordingly, each of claims 15 and 20 are patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to claim 11.

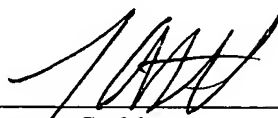
The remaining claims in the above application not heretofore discussed are dependent claims which depend from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing them from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence A. Stahl
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

LAS:eyw

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